

EPA Region III

Office of Public Affairs

EARLY BIRD HEADLINES

Tuesday, April 10, 2012

*** MORNING HOT LIST ***

Assembly approves stormwater pollution mandate

BALTIMORE SUN In a move aimed at helping Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts, the General Assembly adopted a bill late last night mandating that Maryland's largest localities, including Baltimore city and its suburbs, levy fees on their residents to pay for controlling polluted runoff from streets, parking lots and buildings. HB987 cleared the Senate after a protracted debate and repeated efforts by opponents to limit the requirement. All failed, though senators did exempt state, county and municipal governments and volunteer fire companies from having to pay any fees. Sen. E.J. Pipkin, R-Upper Shore, denounced the fee mandate, saying state lawmakers were forcing local governments to pay for pollution reductions ordered by the Environmental Protection Agency under a Chesapeake Bay cleanup plan adopted more than a year ago. "We're going to tax rain water," said Pipkin, who noted that the EPA's authority to impose a "pollution diet" for the bay is currently being challenged in federal court. He warned that cleaning up storm-water pollution, which some have estimated could cost more than \$6 billion by 2025, would hurt Maryland's economy, especially if other states in the bay region don't impose similar fees on their residents. But Sen. Paul G. Pinsky, D-Prince George's, responded that the bill is needed because local governments have lacked the political will to raise funds to pay for tree-planting, storm-drain retrofits and other pollution control measures needed to restore the bay. Storm-water pollution from urban and suburban communities is the source of roughly one-fifth of the nitrogen and phosphorus fouling the bay, he noted.

Mixed green bag: Bay bills advance, energy measures stumble

BALTIMORE SUN In a legislative session marked by discord over taxes and gambling, lawmakers came together to pass three major bills aimed at boosting Chesapeake Bay cleanup efforts. They failed to agree, however, on other environmental priorities - a bill to subsidize building wind turbines off Ocean City, and a measure requiring natural gas companies to pay for studying the impacts of drilling for energy in western Maryland. The General Assembly approved two bay bills that were priorities of the O'Malley administration bills, one doubling the 'flush fee' to pay for upgrading sewage treatment plants and another limiting rural development on septic systems. A third late-moving bill pushed by environmentalists would require Baltimore city and nine suburban counties to levy local fees to pay for curbing polluted runoff from their streets and parking lots. Gov. Martin O'Malley and Robert E. Summers, his secretary of the environment, both declared the General Assembly session "good for the environment." He said he was disappointed that his offshore wind bill died for a second year in a row - though the House overwhelmingly approved it, it failed to get out of the Senate Finance Committee again. A bill also failed to pass that would have raised funds for an ongoing administration study of the impacts of hydraulic fracturing for natural gas in Marcellus shale formations in Garrett and Allegany counties. O'Malley had ordered a three-year holdup on permits to drill in western Maryland while administration officials analyze impacts and possible legal and regulatory changes to protect water quality and the environment. But officials had said they needed more than \$1 million to finish the analysis, and a bill was introduced with administration backing that would have levied a per-acre fee on all drilling leases held by gas companies. The gas industry opposed the fee, however. Drew Cobbs, executive director of the Maryland Petroleum Council, said he had urged officials to trim the study and find funds elsewhere rather than impose the fee. He suggested it was the governor's fault to order a study last year without figuring out how to pay for it.

Maryland set to join Canada, EU in banning arsenic in chicken feed

WASHINGTON POST Maryland is about to become the first state to ban use of additives containing arsenic in chicken feed, a practice already prohibited by Canada and the European Union. Maryland's House of Delegates and Senate approved the legislation last week and placed it Monday before Gov. Martin O'Malley. The governor could sign it soon, said Del. Tom Hucker, D-Montgomery, who sponsored the House legislation. Arsenic occurs naturally in the environment but can also be a toxic carcinogen that contributes to diabetes and heart disease. Last year, the Food and Drug Administration tested 100 chickens by giving them feed containing the additive roxarsone, an arsenic-based drug used to fight animal parasites. Half the chickens later showed trace amounts of inorganic arsenic, a known carcinogen, in their livers. The finding prompted Pfizer to suspend sales of roxarsone, which also makes the meat appear pinker and more plump by promoting growth in chickens' blood vessels. Perdue Farms stopped using the additive years ago, and McDonald's does not allow its suppliers to use it. The United States produced 8.5 billion broiler chickens in 2009, according to the Agriculture Department. Georgia was the nation's largest producer of broilers, turning out 1.3 billion. Maryland was 10th, with nearly 300 million that year, or about 1.4 billion pounds, generating 40 percent of the state's farm revenue, according to the DelMarva Poultry Industry trade group. Growers in Maryland, particularly on the Eastern Shore, continued to use stockpiles of the feed after Pfizer suspended it, feeding about 3 million chickens per year, according to Mr. Hucker and one of the bill's supporters, Food & Water Watch.

Commentary: EPA's pollution limits critical for saving the bay

ROANOKE TIMES (By William C. Baker, preisents of the Chesapeake Bay Foundations) My father was born in Norfolk in 1901. He told me how he and his friends swam, fished, crabbed and oystered throughout Hampton Roads. He spoke of water so clear he could see an anchor on the bottom in water 20feet deep. That would not be even close to possible today. Fortunately, however, the long decline of the Chesapeake Bay has been halted, and it is starting to show signs of improvement. Now, we must finish the job. There is a lot left to do. Thousands of miles of streams and most of the bay remain polluted. Clean water is critical not just for crabs, oysters and fish; it's essential for public health, drinking water, a strong economy, jobs and quality of life. The Virginia Constitution promises clean water for all. Mechanisms are now in place to deliver just that. The key is a new pollution limit, known legally as the Total Maximum Daily Load. It establishes a limit on the amount of pollution the bay and its rivers can safely tolerate. This pollution limit, a requirement of the law, is a science-based, measurable standard. It is up to all of the bay states to meet the limit in whatever way they deem best. They have flexibility. Virginia has prepared a plan that details the most appropriate, equitable and cost-effective cleanup strategies. All states have agreed to implement their plans fully by 2025, giving ample time and opportunity to succeed. Thus, in 13 years the region will achieve what U.S. presidents, legislators and voters have been calling for for decades: restoration of a national treasure, the Chesapeake Bay.

Commentary: EPA diet is not a silver bullet

ROANOKE TIMES We can and should achieve a healthy, functioning ecosystem in the Chesapeake Bay. But the Environmental Protection Agency's nutrient diet is not a silver bullet that will save the bay. In fact, EPA's plan is unnecessary, unwise and unlawful. There are other ways to save the bay. For example, after years of effort, by 2006 each state in the bay region had developed a Tributary Strategy to restore the bay. By EPA's own estimate, the pollutant reductions under these state-led strategies would have been comparable to the reductions under EPA's plan. A recent study by Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland, based on 60years of water quality data, demonstrates that nutrient reduction efforts (including efforts long before the Tributary Strategies) were making substantial improvements before the EPA came up with its plan. The study found that the size of mid- to late-summer "dead zones" leveled off in the 1980s and has been declining ever since. It also found that early summer spikes in dead zones were largely caused by climate forces overwhelming the effects of nutrient control measures in the watershed. EPA's plan will face the same confounding factors, and there was no valid reason to set aside the states' strategies in favor of EPA's prescription. EPA's plan is also badly flawed. For example, it will impose tens of billions of dollars in costs on the affected states, municipalities, homeowners, farmers and taxpayers in a misguided effort to achieve

specific concentrations of dissolved oxygen in all segments of the bay, when EPA's own modeling indicates those levels can never be achieved in certain deep channels. If EPA had attempted to aim for an achievable target that would still support a healthy bay, the result would have been a far less draconian and costly plan.

Natural gas glut slows drilling boom

ASSOCIATED PRESS NEW YORK -- The U.S. natural gas market is bursting at the seams. So much natural gas is being produced that soon there may be nowhere left to put the country's swelling surplus. After years of explosive growth, natural gas producers are retrenching. The underground salt caverns, depleted oil fields and aquifers that store natural gas are rapidly filling up after a balmy winter depressed demand for home heating. The glut has benefited businesses and homeowners that use natural gas. But with natural gas prices at a 10-year low -- and falling -- companies that produce the fuel are becoming victims of their drilling successes. Their stock prices are falling in anticipation of declining profits and scaled-back growth plans. Some of the nation's biggest natural gas producers, including Chesapeake Energy, ConocoPhillips and Encana Corp., have announced plans to slow down. "They've gotten way ahead of themselves, and winter got way ahead of them too," says Jen Snyder, head of North American gas for the research firm Wood Mackenzie. "There hasn't been enough demand to use up all the supply being pushed into the market." So far, efforts to limit production have barely made a dent. Unless the pace of production declines sharply or demand picks up significantly this summer, analysts say the nation's storage facilities could reach their limits by fall. That would cause the price of natural gas, which has been halved over the past year, to nosedive. Citigroup commodities analyst Anthony Yuen says the price of natural gas -- now \$2.08 per 1,000 cubic feet -- could briefly fall below \$1. "There would be no floor," he says. Since October, the number of drilling rigs exploring for natural gas has fallen by 30 percent to 658, according to the energy services company Baker Hughes. Some of the sharpest drop-offs have been in the Haynesville Shale in Northwestern Louisiana and East Texas and the Fayetteville Shale in Central Arkansas. But natural gas production is still growing, the result of a five-year drilling boom that has peppered the country with wells.

30 turn out for meeting on air quality

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE Several Allegheny County residents Monday evening warned of migraines, asthma and an atrocious odor that they believe are caused by pollution in the region. "The stink will wake you up at 2 or 3 in the morning," said Nancy Robinson, 66, of Whitehall. "I want to get in the car and drive away." Ms. Robinson was among the more than 30 people who turned out for a town meeting in Clairton on proposed air toxic guidelines. The new county health department guidelines, which are being finalized by a 20-member team of academics, industry experts, environmentalists, residents and county employees, will replace the dated air quality policy still in use since 1988. The meeting was held at the Clairton Municipal Building, in a region where residents fear that pollutant-rich coats of soot that once covered the region from the steel era might return in new forms under the Marcellus Shale boom. "I remember being able to go out and touch anything and your hand would be covered in black soot," Shelly Stewart of Clairton said. "I know we cannot see pollutants anymore, but it's still there. "The committee is the second team to try to reinvent the county's air quality standards. Another plan, developed from 2005 to 2009, was never adopted. "It's important to have public policy that is clear to the public," said committee member Patricia DeMarco, of the Rachel Carson Institute at Chatham University. "The problem with the last one is that it was pretty complicated." The guidelines will determine the level of air toxins allowed to be released by new facilities in the county. The rules also may provide for a new opportunity to allow companies to offset the emissions, perhaps by transitioning from a diesel fleet of trucks that haul materials to a waterway system, and could target other types of dangerous air toxins. Ms. DeMarco said the new plan also attempts to divide toxins into groups, such as those with respiratory effects and others with neurological ramifications, and calls for the aggregation of air toxins from multiple sources. The team intends to require new sources to use the best technology available and the health department to use the most up-to-date scientific developments to assess air quality, she said. "This gives us a way for a continuous improvement process that we haven't had before," Ms. DeMarco said. But some say the plan can't address some air quality problems that already plague the county.

New concerns about gas compressors expected at DEP hearings

SCRANTON TIMES-TRIBUNE State regulators will hold two meetings in the next week to gather public comment on five natural gas compressor stations proposed in Wyoming and Susquehanna counties. The meetings, on Wednesday and Tuesday, April 17, will feature the first public airing of concern or support for the crucial and proliferating pieces of Marcellus Shale natural gas infrastructure since an explosion damaged a Susquehanna County compressor station on March 29. Department of Environmental Protection officials who will be hosting the events said they have not seen an uptick in interest in the public hearings since the explosion at Williams Partners' Lathrop station in Springville Twp. DEP published a news release for the second hearing on Monday and spokeswoman Colleen Connolly expected to see more response after that. But an organizer of a recent Wyoming County informational event about one proposed station and an environmental group urging stricter air pollution controls at all of the stations said public interest in the facilities is growing. "In the wake of this explosion, especially, I think a lot more people will be coming out to the hearings than before," Matt Walker, a community outreach coordinator with the Clean Air Council, said. Each event will combine a public meeting with an official public hearing during which comments on the proposed air quality permits will be recorded. The meeting on Wednesday will address Chief Gathering's application to build an eight-engine compressor station in Washington Twp., Wyoming County. The meeting at Tunkhannock Area Middle School will begin at 6 p.m. with presentations by company officials and DEP's air-quality staff followed by a question-and-answer period. The public hearing portion will begin at 7:30. Read more: <http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/new-concerns-about-gas-compressors-expected-at-dep-hearings-1.1297644#ixzz1rdUYScgF>

Bay foundation: Report points to need for runoff controls

MARYLAND GAZETTE NEWSPAPERS The Chesapeake Bay Foundation is pointing to a report that adds 37 streams and waterways to the state's most-polluted list as evidence of the need to curb runoff in urban and suburban areas. For 15 of the streams newly listed — either because of high pollution levels or the detection of an additional pollutant — urban runoff and storm sewers were named as the source in the Maryland Department of the Environment's draft report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Roads, roofs, parking lots, patios, sidewalks and other impervious surfaces make up a higher percentage of the landscape in more heavily developed areas. These surfaces decrease the opportunities for rain and other deposits to soak into the ground, where they may be filtered or absorbed by vegetation. According to MDE, among Maryland waters most polluted by runoff from urban or suburban areas were streams linked to the Potomac River in Montgomery, Frederick and Washington counties; the Anacostia River in Prince George's and Montgomery counties; the Little Patuxent River in Anne Arundel and Howard counties; Liberty Reservoir watershed in Carroll and Baltimore counties; Back River in Baltimore city and Baltimore County; Lower Gunpowder Falls in Baltimore County; West River in Anne Arundel County and the Deep Creek Lake watershed in Garrett County. Chlorides and sulfates were the added pollutants in the more-urban streams, and suspended solids were the added pollutants in less-urban waters that were added to the most-polluted list because of urban-type runoff.

Henrico poised to settle with EPA over stormwater pollution penalty

RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH More than a year after the Environmental Protection Agency notified Henrico County that it would be penalized under the federal Clean Water Act for its handling of stormwater pollution, the county is ready to settle. The EPA issued the administrative complaint with a penalty of \$164,300 on April 6, 2011. The Henrico Board of Supervisors is expected to vote tonight to approve a settlement agreement that would significantly cut the penalty. The settlement amount has not been announced. Henrico is not alone among Virginia localities feeling the sting of EPA enforcement recently. Chesterfield County, for example, was hit with a \$131,000 penalty for stormwater pollution. The county and the EPA negotiated a settlement, made official in December, for \$77,866. That amount included \$31,200 toward a Chesterfield program to distribute 220 stormwater spill kits and ensure their proper use. Benjamin A. Thorp, an assistant county attorney for Henrico, said the penalties levied in Virginia are "part of a big push by the EPA to address stormwater runoff." Thorp said the EPA had previously focused on wastewater treatment plants and that after improvements were made to those plants, the agency shifted to

stormwater. The shift comes at the same time as a renewed emphasis on the Chesapeake Bay watershed, which stretches across parts of six states. The EPA asked Henrico for exhaustive records and performed an audit in April 2010. That July, the agency issued a report, and a year ago it issued the complaint. The \$164,300 was not far from the \$177,500 maximum administrative penalty that the EPA can levy without going to federal court. Among other things, the lengthy complaint said the county did not allocate adequate resources to inspecting and screening stormwater inlets and outfalls, and didn't document follow-up actions "after potential illicit discharges were found." The complaint said the county's database indicated that inspectors couldn't confirm the location of stormwater outfalls._

PENNSYLVANIA

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

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Washington County Township receives support for legal challenge of shale law Robinson, Washington County, has received hundreds of emails, phone calls and letters from governments and individuals supporting its joint legal challenge of Act 13, the state's new Marcellus Shale law. Supervisor Brian Coppola said Monday night that he's been overwhelmed with supportive messages from across Pennsylvania. "There have been days I've gotten 150 emails," Mr. Coppola said. Township secretary Christine Rummell reported receiving recent letters of support from Pittsburgh City Council; Luzerne County Council; township supervisors in Buffalo, Butler County, and Hanover, Beaver County; and the borough councils in Wilkesburg, Allegheny County, and Tullytown, Bucks County. Tullytown council wrote that the law "deprives local governments of inherent rights to control land use through zoning, and is a disturbing exercise of state power without precedent in the history of the Commonwealth." Hanover supervisors wrote that "Act 13 restricts our ability to ensure the equal protection of personal and property rights through zoning." Pittsburgh council's letter said the law is "unprecedented, misguided, and plain wrong." Seven towns - including Cecil, Peters, Mount Pleasant Township and Robinson in Washington County, South Fayette in Allegheny County and Yardley and Nockamixon in Bucks County - have joined other plaintiffs in suing the state over zoning restrictions in the new natural gas drilling law. The case is scheduled for an expedited hearing at 10 a.m. Wednesday before a Commonwealth Court

judge in Harrisburg.

Fracking who? Where's Matt Damon? At the "Promised Land" casting call Matt Damon and fracking. This is the biggest move to the big screen that natural gas has ever seen. Surely after the Internet reports, this garnered some controversy? Not really. At the casting call on Saturday at the Westin Convention Center Downtown, more people focused on Damon than the script he co-wrote. Damon and John Krasinski ("The Office") are set to star in an anti-fracking film called "Promised Lane" that is slated to film in Pittsburgh starting at the end of this month and through early June. A majority of the hundreds of people who showed up to a casting call for extras hadn't heard of the reports of it having to do with shale or what the big deal about fracking is that would make the Gus Van Sant film so controversial. Polly Shaw heard about the casting call from the Butler Eagle, and when she saw filming would take place around Pittsburgh, decided to bring photos of her home in Portersville in addition to her head shot. "I figured they might be filming near my front yard," she said. Shaw doesn't know much about Marcellus Shale, but she knows that natural gas drilling takes place in Butler county. The casting call was looking for a variety of people, from children and senior citizens to people who could play baseball players and waitresses. The registration form asked if people owned a tractor.

Muddy Mon Wharf trail 'out of sight, out of mind' The red maples, shadblow and tradition serviceberry trees planted three years ago on the Monongahela Wharf are alive in spring colors, and clusters of bluestem grasses are flourishing in the planters that line the 2,000-foot trail on the river's edge. But watch your step if you decide to take a stroll there. Mud, left by floodwaters that receded more than a month ago, still cakes portions of the trail and the adjacent parking lot. Users' enjoyment of the lush landscaping and shimmering river may be tempered by accumulations of litter, broken glass and weeds that have sprouted in the planters. In short, no one seems to be taking care of the scenic improvement that was opened with much fanfare in November 2009, transforming one of Downtown's more notorious eyesores. Another thing that seems apparent is that the design of the \$3 million project is not entirely compatible with the persistent flooding that occurs on the low-lying plaza. The long concrete enclosures for the trees and grasses are trapping mud as the river recedes and complicating the work of removing it.

Don't wake the bats! Energy firms watch sensitive habitats The Indiana bat weighs less than an ounce and is so small it is able to nest in the spaces between a tree trunk and its rotting bark. It can also do what class-action lawsuits and full-throated protesters haven't been able to: stop Marcellus Shale drilling. Energy firms are quizzed daily on their industry's impact on air and water used by humans, but the companies' rapid development must also take into account less sentient creatures. Does that Greene County property sit atop bountiful shale gas reserves? Better make sure the endangered shortnose sturgeon doesn't swim in a nearby stream. Think that pasture would make a great place to lay pipeline? Check for the beleaguered snow trillium first. Tracking Pennsylvania farmland for sensitive communities is part of the state permitting process for a Marcellus well, and it has fueled a cottage industry of ecological consultants trolling the hills for threatened wildlife and foliage to help companies avoid costly fines. The inspection process, which sometimes takes longer than actual drilling, has inspired some unlikely partnerships between gas firms drilling underground and the advocates interested in the life that's above it. Legless creatures have long brought powerful industries to their knees. Take the snail darter. In 1973, the discovery of the paper clip-sized fish slowed construction of a Little Tennessee River dam, inspiring Congressional infighting and eventually forcing a Supreme Court decision that temporarily halted construction.

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE REVIEW

Coal plants' permits draw challenge Conservation and clean air groups filed an appeal late last week with the Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing Board in an attempt to force the state Department of Environmental Protection to review outdated air-quality permit renewals for coal plants across the state, most of which are in Southwestern Pennsylvania. The appeal, filed late Friday by public interest law firm Earthjustice on behalf of the Sierra Club, Clean Air Council and PennEnvironment, seeks to compel the agency to review outdated permits and issue renewal permits that ensure compliance with all current pollution-control requirements, according to the groups. Nine coal plants are operating under outdated air quality permits, and seven of them are in Southwestern Pennsylvania, they said. Those plants are the AES Beaver Valley plant and the Bruce Mansfield power station, both in Beaver County; the Armstrong power station in Armstrong County; Elrama power plant and the Mitchell power station, both in Washington County; Hatfield's Ferry power station in Greene County; and Homer City power plant in Indiana County. Kevin Sunday, a

DEP spokesman, said the agency is reviewing the appeal and could not comment until that review was complete. "The state's inaction presents a great threat to the health of Pennsylvanians and neighboring states. That's why we're acting to get the state to step in and regulate the pollution," said Earthjustice attorney Charles McPhedran, who is representing the groups. Major sources of air pollution must obtain permits, which generally are valid for five years. Upon renewal, the permits are altered to incorporate new regulatory requirements. The groups said the permit renewal process for coal-fired power plants has been stalled for several years and claim that some applications have been pending for more than five years.

Panel gathers concerns about air toxics A committee developing new guidelines for issuing permits to plants that emit toxic air pollutants conducted the last of its public "listening sessions" on Monday as it prepares to submit recommendations to the Allegheny County Board of Health. No date has been set for when the 20-member committee of university professors, industry representatives and environmentalists will submit the guidelines to the health board for a vote. Jim Thompson, manager of the county's Air Quality Control Program, is hoping the guidelines will become an essential tool for protecting public health. "The reason we need these guidelines is that the federal and state regulations are not enough," Thompson said, noting that while those agencies have "rules and regulations," they often do not go far enough in addressing concerns in areas where there are high concentrations of industry. Clairton was selected for the public meeting because it is home to the nation's largest coke works, which is owned by U.S. Steel. A similar session was conducted in May in Avalon, which has been plagued by pollution emissions from a coke plant on Neville Island. The air toxics guidelines the county currently uses when issuing 30 to 40 permits a year to companies that release pollutants date back to 1988, Thompson said. Many of the 35 people who attended last night's session at the Clairton Municipal Building raised concerns ranging from the annoyance of air that smells bad to the possible health risks of breathing air that contains known cancer-causing toxins. "The air positively stinks," said Pat Jones, who echoed many of the comments raised. Irene Townsend said she has been suffering from asthma since returning to the Mon Valley after a 23-year absence. Donald Burke, dean of the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public Health and chairman of the committee developing the guidelines, said many of the comments made at the meeting are representative of the "strong feelings" people have expressed throughout the process.

Congressman meets North Union officials During a stop in Fayette County on Monday, U.S. Rep. Bill Shuster said creating and retaining jobs will be among his top priorities, if re-elected. Shuster met with North Union supervisors and toured the township's new \$3.2 million community facility. In the evening, he attended the Fayette County Township Supervisors Association's monthly meeting. Shuster, a Hollidaysburg Republican representing the 9th Congressional District, is unopposed in the April 24 primary. His district previously included only a portion of Fayette, but through redistricting, it now encompasses the entire county. To promote job growth, Shuster said, taxes and federal regulations must be kept in check. Infrastructure needs must be met, he said, but funding should be available when such projects are federally mandated. "A township like this -- they're forced by the federal government, and down through state government, to rebuild water and sewage systems," Shuster said. "If there's a federal mandate forcing these communities to do it, I believe it's part of my role to help find the funding -- the funding that they sent to Washington -- and bring it back into the communities here." For growth to occur in such areas as the Marcellus shale gas drilling industry, Shuster said, federal agencies should have a limited role. "In a lot of cases, what I can do is, stop the federal government from coming out here, into Fayette and Western Pennsylvania, and slowing up things, like Marcellus shale development, and overregulating businesses that are trying to create jobs in Western Pennsylvania," Shuster said.

Read more here: <http://www.centredaily.com/2012/02/08/3082316/company-wants-to-buy-public-rail.html#storylink=cpy>

SCRANTON TIMES-TRIBUNE

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spokeswoman Colleen Connolly expected to see more response after that. But an organizer of a recent Wyoming County informational event about one proposed station and an environmental group urging stricter air pollution controls at all of the stations said public interest in the facilities is growing. "In the wake of this explosion, especially, I think a lot more people will be coming out to the hearings than before," Matt Walker, a community outreach coordinator with the Clean Air Council, said. Each event will combine a public meeting with an official public hearing during which comments on the proposed air quality permits will be recorded. The meeting on Wednesday will address Chief Gathering's application to build an eight-engine compressor station in Washington Twp., Wyoming County. The meeting at Tunkhannock Area Middle School will begin at 6 p.m. with presentations by company officials and DEP's air-quality staff followed by a question-and-answer period. The public hearing portion will begin at 7:30.

Read more: <http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/new-concerns-about-gas-compressors-expected-at-dep-hearings-1.1297644#ixzz1rdUYScgF>

STATE COLLEGE CENTRE DAILY TIMES

Letter: A vote for Murphy The Attorney General's Office needs Patrick Murphy. Murphy is a leader who will fight for progressive values and protect the civil rights of every Pennsylvanian. As attorney general, Murphy will stand up to Gov. Tom Corbett's extremist agenda. This is more important to me now than ever as a Penn State student, Centre County resident and woman. Someone needs to legally challenge Marcellus Shale and the carcinogens that pollute Pennsylvania water. Someone needs to contest the constitutionality of Republican Harrisburg's Dark Ages legislation on women's reproductive freedom. That someone is Murphy. As a U.S. Army captain prosecuting terrorists in Iraq, Murphy protected democratic ideals and values. As a member of Congress representing Pennsylvania's 8th District, he led the fight to repeal "don't ask, don't tell," helped pass the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act (expanding the rights of victims of pay discrimination) and stood up to Wall Street executives. I want an attorney general who will engage in legal challenges that affect my everyday life. So on April 24, I'm voting for Murphy. Educate yourself on his positions and you will too.

Read more here: <http://www.centredaily.com/2012/04/09/3156604/a-vote-for-murphy.html#storylink=cpy>

ERIE TIMES-NEWS

Beach walkers to check conditions at Presque Isle today Presque Isle State Park officials will hit the beaches today to check for winter damage. The annual spring beach walk is set to get under way at about 9:30 a.m. Park officials will be joined by representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Presque Isle Advisory Committee and others. They'll spend part of the morning walking from Beach 5 to Sunset Point and then will visit Gull Point in the afternoon. Engineers and officials will be looking for locations where sand has eroded and also where it has built up. The park is expected to receive about \$3 million total in state and federal money for sand work on the peninsula this year, officials have said.

TOWANDA DAILY REVIEW

Canton votes for impact fee CANTON -- Borough council president Ken Robertson hails from "The City of Brotherly Love" known for the famous Declaration of Independence, but on Monday he and other council members were concerned with another kind of declaration. In their "Declaration of Intent" to the county commissioners regarding the Marcellus Shale natural gas well impact fee, council chose to get behind the fee. Council members chose the following wording in the borough's declaration: "A majority of the elected body of our municipality is in favor of the county adopting an ordinance to impose an impact fee on unconventional gas well producers." "Unconventional" means gas wells developed through hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking." Robertson and council members Jason Robertson, Dianna Thompson, and Kurt Bastion as well as borough administrator Amy Seeley, borough solicitor Matthew Brann, and borough mayor John Vineski attended the recent county convention on the impact fee in Towanda. "We wish to go along with this impact fee," Robert said prior to council's vote. After the meeting, Robertson explained Canton's support of the fee. "We are impacted even though there are no wells in the borough; we are impacted by the traffic and other incidental things that may happen as a result of the traffic," he said. "It's wear and tear on our streets. The additional traffic requires a bit more scrutiny by our police department, so that's more of a headache for us." Seeley said it isn't known yet how much money the borough would receive officially under the impact fee. Under the 174-page

impact fee bill signed by Gov. Tom Corbett, counties decide whether to levy the fee. If the county commissioners pass an ordinance approving the fee, the fee would go into effect, and the county and the municipalities in the county would benefit from the fee in areas such as the repair of roads and bridges, increasing the availability of affordable housing, human services, and projects to protect local water supplies. If the commissioners decide against establishing the fee, the borough councils and boards of township supervisors in the county would be able to override the commissioners' decision. If the governing boards of at least half the municipalities in Bradford County - or of municipalities in the county that represent at least 50 percent of the population - pass resolutions in favor of establishing an impact fee, then the fee would take effect countywide, according to the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania. The commissioners have until April 14 to decide whether to implement the fee.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Pa.)

Forest fire in eastern Pennsylvania prompts evacuations BIRDSBORO — Authorities in eastern Pennsylvania say a forest fire has prompted evacuation of some nearby residents, but no injuries have been reported. Berks County emergency officials said fire crews were battling the blaze in French Creek State Park on Monday night, and a spokesman said he expected the effort to go on through the night. WFMZ-TV reported that Union Township officials had ordered the evacuation of residents along four roads near the fire. Township officials said on their website that an emergency shelter had been set up at Immaculate Conception Social Hall. The station reported that crews had been trying to keep the flames from spreading to a nearby fireworks factory, but emergency officials said late Monday night that the factory was no longer threatened.

2012 is starting out significantly warmer than average Temperatures in the lower 48 states were 8.6 degrees above normal for March and 6 degrees higher than average for the first three months of the year

WASHINGTON, D.C.

WASHINGTON POST

Maryland set to join Canada, EU in banning arsenic in chicken feed Maryland is about to become the first state to ban use of additives containing arsenic in chicken feed, a practice already prohibited by Canada and the European Union. Maryland's House of Delegates and Senate approved the legislation last week and placed it Monday before Gov. Martin O'Malley. The governor could sign it soon, said Del. Tom Hucker, D-Montgomery, who sponsored the House legislation. Arsenic occurs naturally in the environment but can also be a toxic carcinogen that contributes to diabetes and heart disease. Last year, the Food and Drug Administration tested 100 chickens by giving them feed containing the additive roxarsone, an arsenic-based drug used to fight animal parasites. Half the chickens later showed trace amounts of inorganic arsenic, a known carcinogen, in their livers. The finding prompted Pfizer to suspend sales of roxarsone, which also makes the meat appear pinker and more plump by promoting growth in chickens' blood vessels. Perdue Farms stopped using the additive years ago, and McDonald's does not allow its suppliers to use it. The United States produced 8.5 billion broiler chickens in 2009, according to the Agriculture Department. Georgia was the nation's largest producer of broilers, turning out 1.3 billion. Maryland was 10th, with nearly 300 million that year, or about 1.4 billion pounds, generating 40 percent of the state's farm revenue, according to the DelMarva Poultry Industry trade group. Growers in Maryland, particularly on the Eastern Shore, continued to use stockpiles of the feed after Pfizer suspended it, feeding about 3 million chickens per year, according to Mr. Hucker and one of the bill's supporters, Food & Water Watch.

Blog : Where does coal go if we don't burn it? Coal is slowly receding as America's top power source. Thanks to a flurry of new air-pollution rules and cheap natural gas, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) projects that U.S. coal consumption will fall this year to its lowest level since 1996. But if the United States isn't going to use its own coal, what's going to happen to the stuff? Since coal-burning is a major contributor to global warming, this is a crucial question. One possibility is that the United States will simply export coal abroad, for other countries to consume. There are signs this is starting to happen: Gregor McDonald flags a chart from the EIA, noting that U.S. coal exports soared last year to their highest levels in two decades: In 2011, the United States exported even more coal to countries like Brazil, South Korea and Europe, just as its own consumption was falling. That's evidence in favor of the idea that if the United States won't burn its vast coal reserves, then other countries will be happy to take the coal off our hands. And if

that's true, it would mean that the government's recent spate of power-plant regulations aren't helping the country make much progress on climate change. After all, carbon-dioxide that's released by burning coal will heat up the planet no matter where it's burned. But will exports continue to increase? There's reason to think that 2011 was something of an anomaly. The EIA notes that U.S. coal exports from Appalachia and the Midwest surged last year because severe flooding in Australia, the world's biggest coal exporter, hampered that country's production. Now that Australia's mines are up and running again, overall U.S. coal production has slumped back down to a five-year low. That suggests, conversely, that the United States's gradual efforts to consume less coal might actually lead to less coal burned overall. More of it will just... stay in the ground.

WUSA-TV WASHINGTON, DC

Flush Tax: Sewer Bills Going Up In Maryland Sewer bills are going up in Maryland. The state Legislature finished work Monday on a proposal from Gov. Martin O'Malley to double the \$30 fee. The so-called "flush tax" is used to fund a bay restoration account. _

DELAWARE

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL

Delaware's defense against floodwaters is failing On the riverfront north of Delaware City, Kevin Donnelly stood at the edge of a 4-foot-deep, 9-foot-wide gash cut by river waters into the side of the Red Lion Creek Dike. The breach had allowed waves to lift large rocks meant to stabilize the slope and deposit them on the marshy banks of the creek. They lay at the inland toe of the dike among a heap of driftwood and crumpled reeds -- ineffective against further erosion. "The force of the water just moves these rocks around like you or I fling pebbles," said Donnelly, head of the New Castle Conservation District and the former state director of water resources. For decades, no one paid attention to the centuries-old dikes. in New Castle County. Now officials must face the effects of years of neglect. In the city of New Castle, four dikes protect miles of roadway, more than 80 structures and help prevent flooding upstream in the county during long storms. Closer to Delaware City, the crumbling Red Lion Creek Dike protects not only the coastal byway but two former industrial sites contaminated with hazardous waste -- Metachem and Oxychem -- from tidal flooding. Engineers deemed the dike as "very likely to fail" in the near future due to erosion, seepage and settlement. "If Hurricane Irene had hit at high tide, it likely would have breached [the dike] and washed contamination into residential areas," Secretary Colin O'Mara of the state Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control told the General Assembly's Bond Bill Committee last month. "They're in danger if we continue to have these more and more intense storms," he said.

Blaze still out of control; operations altered at Port of Wilmington Smoke from a weekend fire burning out of control managed to disrupt operations Monday at the nearby Port of Wilmington, including stopping unloading ...

DELAWARE CAPE GAZETTE

Epworth UMC to celebrate Earth Day Epworth United Methodist Church will host its 5th Annual Green Fair from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Sunday, April 22, to mark International Earth Day. The objective of the fair is to instill new resolve for stewardship of the air, water, soil and other resources of the Earth and to provide new ideas for reducing environmental damage. The public is invited to attend this free event in the Fellowship Hall. Organized by the Epworth Social Justice Committee, the Green Fair will include exhibits that offer ideas for sustainable practices that prevent environmental damage and will enable the Rehoboth community to gather ideas and tips on saving energy (which automatically involves saving money) as well as how and why it is important to support area business entities by buying local.

Number of Delaware farmers markets rises dramatically Delaware's farmers market season will kick off bigger and better than ever this month, with the number of markets selling farm-fresh produce around the state substantially increased over last year. Twenty-seven local farmers markets will be open during the spring and summer, including 12 new sites, offering a vibrant medley of just-picked Delaware produce as it comes into season. This is the seventh year

of Delaware's farmers market program. The Milton Farmers Market will launch the season Friday, April 20, followed by Selbyville Saturday, April 21. The farmers markets provide a significant economic boost to Delaware agriculture. The 2011 season, which featured 16 community-sponsored markets, brought in \$1.8 million. In 2010, 14 markets brought in \$1.3 million. The growth is due to the rising interest in locally grown food and healthy eating, Delaware leaders said. "The tremendous growth in Delaware's farmers market program helps strengthen the agriculture industry and support local jobs," Gov. Jack Markell said. "The markets benefit farmers and consumers. My family, and thousands of other Delaware families, is looking forward to enjoying our state's fresh, nutritious produce and other agricultural products."

WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON GAZETTE

Wind farm operator says equipment will dampen noise WILEY FORD, W.Va. -- Following complaints from residents living near the Pinnacle Wind Energy project on Green Mountain in Mineral County, noise abatement equipment will be installed on all 22 turbines making up the 55-megawatt facility, the company said Monday. "Based on concerns expressed by some area residents, we performed extensive analysis of the noise from these turbines," Charley Parnell, a spokesman for project operator Edison Mission Group, said in a news release. "We believe Pinnacle is operating in a manner that meets the requirements of our permits, but taking additional steps to mitigate noise is an important part of our commitment to be a responsible corporate citizen of the communities in which we operate."

CHARLESTON DAILY MAIL

Editorial: Drill, baby, drill has worked in West Virginia Competition, not government, has greatly boosted energy supply JUST four years ago, natural gas prices were so high that people across the country were complaining. In July 2008, natural gas prices topped \$12.50 per million British thermal units and oil sold for \$128 a barrel. Since then, natural gas prices have dropped to nearly \$2 per million Btu while oil remains above \$100 per barrel. The nation drilled for one and did not drill for the other. Horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing have moved east and set up shop in the Marcellus shale formation in Appalachia. Officials in energy companies saw the huge potential for profits and to use the words of a former governor of Alaska, they did drill, baby, drill. That, along with a mild winter in most of the United States that reduced demand, dropped natural gas prices like a soufflé after an earthquake. The drop in natural gas prices has slowed drilling in some parts of West Virginia, shifting attention from the dry gas that is used as an energy source to the wet natural gases that can be used in the manufacture of products. "That's the kind of pricing that will just stagnate virtually all conventional drilling and probably the vast majority of the Marcellus drilling in the dry gas areas of that play," said Charlie Burd, executive director of the Independent Oil and Gas Association of West Virginia. This happened in a short period of time. Imagine what would have happened to oil prices if instead of wasting time and subsidies paid by taxpayers on "alternative" energy, policymakers in Washington had opened up for oil companies a few thousand acres in Alaska and elsewhere in the United States.

WHEELING INTELLIGENCER

Area Primed For New Drilling Natural gas drilling throughout much of the nation is slowing due to an overabundance of gas supplies, industry analysts are reporting. But don't expect drilling in the Northern Panhandle and East Ohio to slow down anytime soon; in fact, with the abundance of so-called "wet gas" and oil found in the region's Marcellus and Utica shale formations, it is likely that drilling will ramp up even more over the coming months as companies focus their efforts here. Marshall and Ohio counties are centered in the wet gas area of the Marcellus Shale, which means that along with the methane, which is used to heat homes, drillers also are finding high levels of ethane, butane and propane in the gas. And in Ohio, five Utica Shale wells owned by Chesapeake Energy - including one in Harrison County near Jewett - produced more than 43,000 barrels of oil in 2011. The Harrison County well also produced 1.52 billion cubic feet of natural gas in 198 days of production last year. The drilling potential in the local area is such right now that one gas industry insider said he knows of many workers being transferred from drilling operations in North Central West Virginia to Wheeling or East Ohio. That's more good news for our area and our local economies, as not only could it lead to additional natural gas production and royalties for landowners, but those workers also will have

disposable income to spend in area stores, restaurants and lodging facilities. That's a positive for an Ohio Valley economy that remains in need of a big boost.

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE SUN

Mixed green bag: Bay bills advance, energy measures stumble In a legislative session marked by discord over taxes and gambling, lawmakers came together to pass three major bills aimed at boosting Chesapeake Bay cleanup efforts. They failed to agree, however, on other environmental priorities - a bill to subsidize building wind turbines off Ocean City, and a measure requiring natural gas companies to pay for studying the impacts of drilling for energy in western Maryland. The General Assembly approved two bay bills that were priorities of the O'Malley administration bills, one doubling the 'flush fee' to pay for upgrading sewage treatment plants and another limiting rural development on septic systems. A third late-moving bill pushed by environmentalists would require Baltimore city and nine suburban counties to levy local fees to pay for curbing polluted runoff from their streets and parking lots. Gov. Martin O'Malley and Robert E. Summers, his secretary of the environment, both declared the General Assembly session "good for the environment." He said he was disappointed that his offshore wind bill died for a second year in a row - though the House overwhelmingly approved it, it failed to get out of the Senate Finance Committee again. A bill also failed to pass that would have raised funds for an ongoing administration study of the impacts of hydraulic fracturing for natural gas in Marcellus shale formations in Garrett and Allegany counties. O'Malley had ordered a three-year holdup on permits to drill in western Maryland while administration officials analyze impacts and possible legal and regulatory changes to protect water quality and the environment. But officials had said they needed more than \$1 million to finish the analysis, and a bill was introduced with administration backing that would have levied a per-acre fee on all drilling leases held by gas companies. The gas industry opposed the fee, however. Drew Cobbs, executive director of the Maryland Petroleum Council, said he had urged officials to trim the study and find funds elsewhere rather than impose the fee. He suggested it was the governor's fault to order a study last year without figuring out how to pay for it.

Assembly approves stormwater pollution mandate In a move aimed at helping Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts, the General Assembly adopted a bill late last night mandating that Maryland's largest localities, including Baltimore city and its suburbs, levy fees on their residents to pay for controlling polluted runoff from streets, parking lots and buildings. HB987 cleared the Senate after a protracted debate and repeated efforts by opponents to limit the requirement. All failed, though senators did exempt state, county and municipal governments and volunteer fire companies from having to pay any fees. Sen. E.J. Pipkin, R-Upper Shore, denounced the fee mandate, saying state lawmakers were forcing local governments to pay for pollution reductions ordered by the Environmental Protection Agency under a Chesapeake Bay cleanup plan adopted more than a year ago. "We're going to tax rain water," said Pipkin, who noted that the EPA's authority to impose a "pollution diet" for the bay is currently being challenged in federal court. He warned that cleaning up storm-water pollution, which some have estimated could cost more than \$6 billion by 2025, would hurt Maryland's economy, especially if other states in the bay region don't impose similar fees on their residents. But Sen. Paul G. Pinsky, D-Prince George's, responded that the bill is needed because local governments have lacked the political will to raise funds to pay for tree-planting, storm-drain retrofits and other pollution control measures needed to restore the bay. Storm-water pollution from urban and suburban communities is the source of roughly one-fifth of the nitrogen and phosphorus fouling the bay, he noted.

Flush fee hike, septic limits adopted The General Assembly gave final approval today to Gov. Martin O'Malley's two Chesapeake Bay priority bills - one doubling the so-called "flush fee" to help pay for bay restoration efforts, and the other limiting development using septic systems. By a vote of 89-48, the Senate concurred this morning on relatively minor House amendments to the Bay Restoration Fund bill, HB446, which would increase from \$2.50 to \$5 monthly the charge levied on most Maryland households and businesses to pay for upgrading the state's largest wastewater treatment plants.

SALISBURY DAILY TIMES

Farmland holds value SNOW HILL -- Everyone knows that residential and property taxes are plummeting, sending

state and local budgets into a revenue tailspin. But what about farmland? One local farmer said the property tax bills for his 115-acre home farm are up by about \$1,000, or 12 percent, in the last round of triennial assessments. "Farmland, trees, anything to do with ag land basically went up. I saw an increase in my own, and I heard other people say the same exact thing," said Virgil Shockley, a chicken farmer and Worcester County commissioner. Shockley also said if there are irrigation systems on the farm, farmers face \$50-\$75 per acre more in land rent. One main reason for the increased appreciation of agricultural land is there's less of it in Worcester County, and there won't be any new farmland created anytime soon. "The biggest threat to the poultry industry is not EPA or MDE (the Maryland Department of the Environment) -- it's building houses where acres of corn used to grow," Shockley added.

Dry weather leads to burn ban advisory in Md. SALISBURY, Md. (WTW) — Windy and dry weather conditions are leading to precautions on the lower portion of Maryland's Eastern Shore. Outdoor burning is being discouraged Sunday under a fire weather watch. Winds are expected to gust to 30 mph. Humidity in the afternoon is expected to be low. Affected areas include Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties in the Lower Shore area and Dorchester County in the mid-Shore area.

FREDERICK NEWS-POST

General Assembly passes spending, stormwater bills ANNAPOLIS -- Bills to control septic systems and create a local stormwater fee passed the Maryland General Assembly on the tumultuous final day of the legislative session. Lawmakers adjourned at midnight after failing to pass a revenue plan needed to avoid roughly \$250 million in budget cuts. They did, however, pass a spending plan relying on cuts that the Democrat-controlled Legislature had hoped to avoid. That prompted the presiding officers to say they plan to ask Gov. Martin O'Malley, a Democrat, for a special session to take up the revenue measure. The legislature also failed to approve a measure to expand gambling to allow table games at five casino sites currently allowed under law, and to allow them at a new gambling venue in Prince George's County. Lawmakers could convene in a special session to take up the revenue bill and the gambling measure this week. As most eyes were trained on the budget battles between the House of Delegates and the Senate, Republican lawmakers staged fierce opposition to the stormwater bill that they said would shift heavy costs to local taxpayers. The legislation would require 10 jurisdictions, including Frederick County, to craft the fee to raise money for stormwater cleanup. Legislative analysts estimate that plans to reduce runoff pollution as part of a federal mandate will cost local jurisdictions a total of \$6.3 billion between 2013 and 2025. Although bill supporters said counties wouldn't have to raise that entire amount with the new fee, others worried the bill would place a significant burden on the shoulders of state residents. Sen. Paul Pinsky argued that the bill gave counties some resources to address the problem of Chesapeake Bay pollution. "We keep wishing it'll go away," he said. "It won't work that way."

Editorial: Flush tax doubles down Among many big, controversial legislative proposals taken up by the Maryland General Assembly this year was an increase in the state's "flush tax." The tax revenue goes into the state's Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund. The increase is a hefty one -- doubling the old \$30 annual tax to \$60. Why such a drastic hike? According to the news website MarylandReporter.com, the O'Malley administration says that the original estimate to do the job -- upgrading 67 sewage treatment plants to reduce their discharge of nitrogen and other harmful nutrients into the Chesapeake Bay watershed -- was too low. Originally at \$750 million, the price tag now stands at \$1.4 billion. In an attempt to get this legislation through the state Senate, two amendments were offered. One passed, the other failed. In our opinion, both should have been adopted. The amendment that was adopted excludes some areas of far western Maryland and Ocean City from the increase. The reason: They don't drain into the bay's watershed. The second amendment, which would have put a stop to raids on the bay fund, failed -- though only by a small margin (21-25). That's too bad, because, like Maryland's Transportation Trust Fund, the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund should be off limits to raids -- whether they are eventually repaid or not. For one thing, taxpayer confidence in state government, and the willingness to pay these supposedly earmarked taxes, is eroded when revenue from these funds is withdrawn and used for other purposes. In the case of the bay fund, these raids have risen to \$290 million just since 2010. They were replaced with IOUs in the form of general obligation bonds, and, according to Sen. Paul Pinsky, no harm no foul.

MARYLAND GAZETTE NEWSPAPERS

Bay foundation: Report points to need for runoff controls The Chesapeake Bay Foundation is pointing to a report that adds 37 streams and waterways to the state's most-polluted list as evidence of the need to curb runoff in urban and suburban areas. For 15 of the streams newly listed -- either because of high pollution levels or the detection of an

additional pollutant — urban runoff and storm sewers were named as the source in the Maryland Department of the Environment's draft report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Roads, roofs, parking lots, patios, sidewalks and other impervious surfaces make up a higher percentage of the landscape in more heavily developed areas. These surfaces decrease the opportunities for rain and other deposits to soak into the ground, where they may be filtered or absorbed by vegetation. According to MDE, among Maryland waters most polluted by runoff from urban or suburban areas were streams linked to the Potomac River in Montgomery, Frederick and Washington counties; the Anacostia River in Prince George's and Montgomery counties; the Little Patuxent River in Anne Arundel and Howard counties; Liberty Reservoir watershed in Carroll and Baltimore counties; Back River in Baltimore city and Baltimore County; Lower Gunpowder Falls in Baltimore County; West River in Anne Arundel County and the Deep Creek Lake watershed in Garrett County. Chlorides and sulfates were the added pollutants in the more-urban streams, and suspended solids were the added pollutants in less-urban waters that were added to the most-polluted list because of urban-type runoff.

SOUTHERN MARYLAND ONLINE

Commentary: Is Drilling and Pipelines Something We 'Tneed?' You wouldn't think that an animated, musical film could apply to real life. But that's what happened for me upon viewing the movie based on Dr. Seuss's *The Lorax* with my children. In the story, one of the main characters — the Once-ler — descends upon the pristine Truffula Tree forest to transform its natural resources into "Thneeds" which are "Fine-Somethings-That-All-People-Need." Eventually, the Once-ler's booming business leads to the destruction of the very last Truffula tree, a prediction made by the Lorax who, as most of us know, speaks for the trees. The movie quickly came to mind again later that day while reading a newspaper article about a proposed 200-mile, \$1 billion pipeline that would deliver natural gas from production facilities in northeastern Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale region to customers in Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington. If signed off on by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the gas companies would aim to complete the project by 2015. Once complete, the pipeline would transport 7.8 million cubic feet and \$5.1 million worth of natural gas per day. After more digging, I learned that the Commonwealth Pipeline, as it would be called, could mean cheaper natural gas for mid-Atlantic folks like me. That's because until the Marcellus Shale boom, most natural gas came from the Gulf Coast or the western United States. Having the energy source hundreds, rather than thousands, of miles away makes it less expensive because natural gas suppliers pay on the basis of how far their gas needs to travel. That sounded reasonable to me. But with existing concerns about the drilling and Dr. Seuss's wise words fresh in my mind, I couldn't help but hear the Lorax in my head, wondering "Is more drilling and pipelines something everyone needs?"

Doubling Flush Tax Increase Almost Certain, Bay Restoration Fund Still Bulnerable to Future Raids ANNAPOLIS -- Most Marylanders will see their flush tax bill double from \$30 to \$60 beginning July 1, but the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund will remain vulnerable to raids that have climbed to \$290 million since 2010. The Senate approved the fee increase in 28-18 vote late Saturday, with an amendment that exempts some areas in far western Maryland and Ocean City that are not part of the Chesapeake Bay drainage area. The House, which has already passed the measure, is likely to agree to the amendment. The cash withdrawals from the fund were replaced over a three-year period with general obligations bonds. These will be issued when projects are "shovel ready," said Environment Secretary Robert Summers on several occasions during the 2012 legislative session. The 100% tax increase (2012 House Bill 446) will bring \$385 million in additional revenue to the Bay Restoration Fund by 2017 to upgrade 67 sewage treatment plants. The administration claims the original estimate of \$750 million for the upgrades was too low. The correct estimate is now \$1.4 billion. Money is also used to subsidize septic system upgrades and farm cover crops. Senate Republican Leader E.J. Pipkin railed against raids on the fund as "credit card" spending and also questioned the drastic increase in the cost estimates. "You're doubling the tax yet you continue to raid money and replace it with I-O-U-s," Pipkin said during a Senate session on Saturday. "We put these projects on a credit card."

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Md.)

Army Corps to unveil oyster master plan ANNAPOLIS — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is hosting the first of three public meetings to discuss a master plan to restore Chesapeake Bay oysters. The corps, which holds the first meeting tonight in Annapolis, says the plan is the first comprehensive bay-wide strategy for large-scale oyster restoration. Nineteen areas, 11 in Maryland and eight in Virginia, have been selected for restoration. Those waterways include the Eastern Bay, Tangier Sound and the Nanticoke, Choptank and Chester rivers in Maryland. The Pocomoke,

Rappahannock and James rivers are among the areas in Virginia. The plan also calls for sanctuaries where harvesting won't be allowed covering 20 percent to 40 percent of historic habitat. The second meeting is April 17 in Hampton, Va. and the last is April 19 in Wye Mills, Md

VIRGINIA

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

Henrico poised to settle with EPA over stormwater pollution penalty More than a year after the Environmental Protection Agency notified Henrico County that it would be penalized under the federal Clean Water Act for its handling of stormwater pollution, the county is ready to settle. The EPA issued the administrative complaint with a penalty of \$164,300 on April 6, 2011. The Henrico Board of Supervisors is expected to vote tonight to approve a settlement agreement that would significantly cut the penalty. The settlement amount has not been announced. Henrico is not alone among Virginia localities feeling the sting of EPA enforcement recently. Chesterfield County, for example, was hit with a \$131,000 penalty for stormwater pollution. The county and the EPA negotiated a settlement, made official in December, for \$77,866. That amount included \$31,200 toward a Chesterfield program to distribute 220 stormwater spill kits and ensure their proper use. Benjamin A. Thorp, an assistant county attorney for Henrico, said the penalties levied in Virginia are "part of a big push by the EPA to address stormwater runoff." Thorp said the EPA had previously focused on wastewater treatment plants and that after improvements were made to those plants, the agency shifted to stormwater. The shift comes at the same time as a renewed emphasis on the Chesapeake Bay watershed, which stretches across parts of six states. The EPA asked Henrico for exhaustive records and performed an audit in April 2010. That July, the agency issued a report, and a year ago it issued the complaint. The \$164,300 was not far from the \$177,500 maximum administrative penalty that the EPA can levy without going to federal court. Among other things, the lengthy complaint said the county did not allocate adequate resources to inspecting and screening stormwater inlets and outfalls, and didn't document follow-up actions "after potential illicit discharges were found."

The complaint said the county's database indicated that inspectors couldn't confirm the location of stormwater outfalls.

NORFOLK VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Agency buys Eastern Shore islands to protect the Bay VIRGINIA BEACH --Despite the documented potential for toxic effects on people and the environment from Friday's Navy jet crash, the actual impact appears to have been minimal so far. It's another piece of good news to emerge from the spectacular accident, which destroyed some 40 units in the Mayfair Mews apartment complex but killed no one. Battalion Chief Tim Riley, a spokesman for the Virginia Beach Fire Department, said Monday that continuous environmental monitoring at the crash site near Oceana Naval Air Station has turned up no cause for concern about airborne or waterborne contaminants. "There's no abnormal findings," Riley said. "They're well below levels that would require any special precautions." An environmental mitigation team contracted by the Navy is doing the monitoring. Riley said debris removal has begun, even as Navy investigators continue to comb the site to determine the cause of the crash. Maria Nold, Tidewater regional director for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, said there have been no reports of environmental harm from the crash of the F/A-18D Hornet. The jet's burning fuselage sent a thick, black plume of smoke billowing into the sky.

Toxic hazards from crash found to be minimal so far VIRGINIA BEACH -- Despite the documented potential for toxic effects on people and the environment from Friday's Navy jet crash, the actual impact appears to have been minimal so far. It's another piece of good news to emerge from the spectacular accident, which destroyed some 40 units in the Mayfair Mews apartment complex but killed no one. Battalion Chief Tim Riley, a spokesman for the Virginia Beach Fire Department, said Monday that continuous environmental monitoring at the crash site near Oceana Naval Air Station has turned up no cause for concern about airborne or waterborne contaminants. "There's no abnormal findings," Riley said. "They're well below levels that would require any special precautions." An environmental mitigation team contracted by the Navy is doing the monitoring. Riley said debris removal has begun, even as Navy investigators continue to comb the site to determine the cause of the crash. Maria Nold, Tidewater regional director for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, said there have been no reports of environmental harm from the crash of the F/A-18D Hornet. The jet's burning fuselage sent a thick, black plume of smoke billowing into the sky. According to the

Naval Safety Center, a burning aircraft can release a large volume of toxic materials. The newest and potentially most hazardous of those are the advanced composite materials widely used in today's military aircraft because of their high strength-to-weight ratios. Such materials typically consist of fibers embedded in a plastic matrix. When they burn, composite materials can throw off breathable fibers and toxic gases, including carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and hydrogen cyanide.

Lynnhaven River losing some of harvest zones VIRGINIA BEACH -- When the Virginia Health Department comes calling, environmentalists working to restore the Lynnhaven River get nervous. The department determines which sections of the city's largest river will be open for oyster and clam harvesting each year - a benchmark for restoration success - and which ones will be closed due to excessive levels of bacteria pollution. It was not long ago that the entire Lynnhaven was shut down, effectively killing a once-mighty shellfish industry. The crash resulted from too much shoreline development and too much raw sewage contaminating water quality. The news for 2012, delivered this week, has city officials and members of the environmental group Lynnhaven River Now both smiling and frowning. While they are smiling because new areas in Linkhorn Bay are being opened to direct shellfish harvesting, they are not happy that the river as a whole will lose about 121 acres of oyster and clam grounds. The losses are centered mostly in the Eastern Branch of the river, where homes are more densely packed, leading to more potential bacteria from sources such as pet wastes, storm drains, waterfront lawns and boat toilets. Karen Forget, executive director of Lynnhaven River Now, said about 42 percent of the river last year was deemed clean enough for collecting and eating shellfish. In 2012, she said, that number will slide to 40 percent - and will force at least one oyster farmer to shift his operations before the new cleanliness designations take effect Thursday. "There's an awful lot of people who live within the watershed," Forget said, "so for us to say that 40 percent of this urbanized river still is open to shellfishing is, to me, remarkable."

ROANOKE TIMES

Commentary: EPA's pollution limits critical for saving the bay (By William C. Baker, president of the Chesapeake Bay Foundations) My father was born in Norfolk in 1901. He told me how he and his friends swam, fished, crabbed and oystered throughout Hampton Roads. He spoke of water so clear he could see an anchor on the bottom in water 20feet deep. That would not be even close to possible today. Fortunately, however, the long decline of the Chesapeake Bay has been halted, and it is starting to show signs of improvement. Now, we must finish the job. There is a lot left to do. Thousands of miles of streams and most of the bay remain polluted. Clean water is critical not just for crabs, oysters and fish; it's essential for public health, drinking water, a strong economy, jobs and quality of life. The Virginia Constitution promises clean water for all. Mechanisms are now in place to deliver just that. The key is a new pollution limit, known legally as the Total Maximum Daily Load. It establishes a limit on the amount of pollution the bay and its rivers can safely tolerate. This pollution limit, a requirement of the law, is a science-based, measurable standard. It is up to all of the bay states to meet the limit in whatever way they deem best. They have flexibility. Virginia has prepared a plan that details the most appropriate, equitable and cost-effective cleanup strategies. All states have agreed to implement their plans fully by 2025, giving ample time and opportunity to succeed. Thus, in 13 years the region will achieve what U.S. presidents, legislators and voters have been calling for for decades: restoration of a national treasure, the Chesapeake Bay.

Commentary: EPA diet is not a silver bullet We can and should achieve a healthy, functioning ecosystem in the Chesapeake Bay. But the Environmental Protection Agency's nutrient diet is not a silver bullet that will save the bay. In fact, EPA's plan is unnecessary, unwise and unlawful. There are other ways to save the bay. For example, after years of effort, by 2006 each state in the bay region had developed a Tributary Strategy to restore the bay. By EPA's own estimate, the pollutant reductions under these state-led strategies would have been comparable to the reductions under EPA's plan. A recent study by Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland, based on 60years of water quality data, demonstrates that nutrient reduction efforts (including efforts long before the Tributary Strategies) were making substantial improvements before the EPA came up with its plan. The study found that the size of mid- to late-summer "dead zones" leveled off in the 1980s and has been declining ever since. It also found that early summer spikes in dead zones were largely caused by climate forces overwhelming the effects of nutrient control measures in the watershed. EPA's plan will face the same confounding factors, and there was no valid reason to set aside the states' strategies in favor of EPA's prescription. EPA's plan is also badly flawed. For example, it will impose tens of billions of dollars in costs on the affected states, municipalities, homeowners, farmers and taxpayers in a misguided effort to

achieve specific concentrations of dissolved oxygen in all segments of the bay, when EPA's own modeling indicates those levels can never be achieved in certain deep channels. If EPA had attempted to aim for an achievable target that would still support a healthy bay, the result would have been a far less draconian and costly plan.

Editorial: Leading from the back Gov. Bob McDonnell will not make a recommendation on uranium mining in Pittsylvania County. Leadership, after all, requires making decisions, and for a politician with his eyes on higher office, taking sides on controversial issues is risky. The governor in January asked lawmakers to postpone action on lifting or maintaining Virginia's moratorium on uranium mining for a year. Everyone would have time to digest a study by the National Academy of Sciences. Meanwhile, the governor commissioned his own study group to investigate the risks, rewards and potential regulations. Another study usually is not controversial, but the governor's panel announced it would do a lot of its work in secret. That went over poorly with just about everyone, and now his administration insists that all along it meant to do things openly. Well, most things, anyway. Last week the administration added that the governor will not make any recommendations based on the findings. "His role is not going to be a bully pulpit role to say to the General Assembly, 'This is what I think you should do,'" McDonnell press secretary Jeff Caldwell told the Richmond Times-Dispatch. If not that, then what is the point of the study? True leaders lead, especially on controversial issues. They do not hide behind one more study whose results they punt to another branch of government.

Editorial: Republicans cling to coal's past Remember in the last congressional election how the 9th U.S. House District's longtime representative and native son, Rick Boucher, tried to explain how his work on and vote for a carbon cap-and-trade energy bill did not make him an enemy of coal? How, to the contrary, in helping to draft the legislation he had won concessions for the coal industry? And that, absent congressional action, a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that greenhouse gases should be treated as pollutants under the Clean Air Act would force the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate carbon dioxide emissions? Further, that the EPA regulations would be worse for industry? Well, all of that was true, with the possible exception of that last bit about the EPA. Cap-and-trade passed the House but died in the Senate. Democrat Boucher went down in defeat to Salem Republican Rep. Morgan Griffith, who got a big assist from "Boucher Betrayed Coal" campaign signs, paid for by Americans for Prosperity, strewn across far Southwest's coal counties. Last week, the EPA proposed its first-ever rules to control carbon dioxide emissions from new power plants. Virginians can't claim they couldn't have foreseen the day. The surprise is the lack of any immediate impact. Congressional elections have come around again, heightened in intensity by the presidential election year. So, of course, Virginia Republicans are in full cry, warning of dire consequences for the coal industry, the chronically depressed coal counties and the state's economy overall. The EPA rules are only proposals at this point, though, put out for public comment for 60 days and subject to revision. The agency has announced no timetable for issuing a final rule.

ALTAVISTA JOURNAL

Officials discuss option for cleaning up PCBs Several Altavista Town Council members were optimistic Friday about the possibility of trees solving a longtime problem with PCBs. On Friday morning, town officials, representatives from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, two scientists involved with finding solutions for PCBs and others looked at the emergency overflow pond at Altavista's wastewater treatment plant. That's where the town's PCBs are located. The tour was followed by a meeting at the train station with several speakers, including Dr. Louis Licht of Ecolotree Inc. in Iowa, whose phytoremediation process uses poplar and willow trees to break down PCBs, an acronym for polychlorinated biphenyls. After the meeting, Councilman Charles Edwards, a member of a town committee looking at solutions for the PCBs, said he wants to move forward with experiments proposed by Licht. He said an advisory committee on PCBs might have some input about other experiments involving the overflow pond. Edwards, who helped arrange Friday's tour and meeting, said he was pleased with the outcome. Noting there's still more to learn, Councilman Bill Ferguson said the tree method sounded like it would work. "I want to get it off our plate. That's all we have talked about since I've been on council," Ferguson said. The PCBs were discovered in the emergency overflow pond in 2000, although town officials have said they were there many years before that. Sludge last went into the pond in 1973.

MISCELLANEOUS

BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT

EPA Reaffirms Intent for Responsible Parties to Conduct Superfund Studies EPA reaffirms its intent to have potentially responsible parties conduct remedial investigation or feasibility studies at superfund sites, wherever appropriate, rather than using federal cleanup funds. Regions should continue to carefully review each case to ensure that EPA is effectively using its enforcement authorities to maximize the potentially responsible party's performance of the study, the agency says in a memorandum to regional offices. Doing so preserves resources from the Hazardous Substances Trust Fund for sites where there are no viable responsible parties capable of performing the studies, the memo says

Biofuel Industry Groups Seek to Side With EPA in Fuel Lawsuit Biofuel industry groups seek to intervene on behalf of EPA in lawsuits challenging its renewable fuel standards. The Advanced Biofuels Association, American Coalition for Ethanol, Advanced Ethanol Council, Biotechnology Industry Organization, Growth Energy, and Renewable Fuels Association file the motion to intervene in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. The groups say their members "have investments in equipment, research, and development to supply the necessary renewable fuel" in response to EPA's renewable fuel program and their businesses would be harmed if the standards were overturned. The National Biodiesel Board also files a separate motion to intervene on behalf of EPA in the litigation filed by the American Petroleum Institute.

Sierra Club to Sue Kansas City, Kan., Over Coal-Fired Power Plants The Sierra Club of Kansas says it will file a lawsuit against the Kansas City Board of Public Utilities to address excess air pollution from two coal-fired electricity-generating plants in Kansas City, Kan. The two plants at issue emit greater amounts of particulate matter than is provided for in their air quality permits and neither is equipped with up-to-date pollution controls, the Sierra Club says in announcing it has filed a 60-day notice of intent to sue, as required by the Clean Air Act.

WBNG-TV BINGHAMTON, NY

EPA: Dimock Water Clean, Again (Video) Dimock, PA (WBNG Binghamton) The Environmental Protection Agency releases results from its second round of testing in Dimock Twp., and said none of them show any immediate concerns. The agency tested water in 20 wells. None of them included substance levels that would require any action --- at least according to federal EPA water standards. However, neighbors who have seen the differences in their drinking water before and after gas drilling are not convinced. One says the levels used by the EPA are too high and unsafe. "Now with the EPA coming in and setting them so high here, you can't make a statement saying there is no problem with the water," said Craig Sautner, a Dimock Twp. resident. "There's stuff in the wells that is not naturally occurring. If you detect just a little bit, you are still detecting it. It's not good. It's not supposed to be there, and it didn't happen until after the drilling began here." George Stark, spokesman for Cabot Oil & Gas, which has wells in the area, said the results validate what the company has been saying for months. "The EPA data is consistent with literally thousands of pages of water quality data accumulated by state and local authorities and by Cabot," Stark wrote. "Importantly, the EPA again did not indicate that those contaminants that were detected bore any relationship to oil and gas development in the Dimock area, particularly given the fact that any contaminants are more likely indicative of naturally-occurring background levels or other unrelated activities."

FOX NEWS 40 BINGHAMTON

Dimock Water Tests Cause More Division The latest round of EPA test results on well water has done little to bridge the divide among residents in Dimock, Pennsylvania. The latest results of 20 wells showed no dangerous levels of contamination. However, litigants in a suit against Cabot Oil and Gas say the EPA has set too high a bar to define pollution - and they still worry about the long-term effects of drinking the water. However, other residents, not involved in a lawsuit against Cabot, say the results further confirm the safety of the Susquehanna County Village's water. "I've been reviewing the data for about a year and a half now and I didn't see anything significant in any of the data and it's not surprising that the EPA hasn't found anything as well," said Dimock resident Loren Salsman. So far results on 31 wells of 61 tested have been released. The remaining results should be released in the coming weeks.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Natural gas glut slows drilling boom NEW YORK -- The U.S. natural gas market is bursting at the seams. So much natural gas is being produced that soon there may be nowhere left to put the country's swelling surplus. After years of explosive growth, natural gas producers are retrenching. The underground salt caverns, depleted oil fields and aquifers that store natural gas are rapidly filling up after a balmy winter depressed demand for home heating. The glut has benefited businesses and homeowners that use natural gas. But with natural gas prices at a 10-year low -- and falling -- companies that produce the fuel are becoming victims of their drilling successes. Their stock prices are falling in anticipation of declining profits and scaled-back growth plans. Some of the nation's biggest natural gas producers, including Chesapeake Energy, ConocoPhillips and Encana Corp., have announced plans to slow down. "They've gotten way ahead of themselves, and winter got way ahead of them too," says Jen Snyder, head of North American gas for the research firm Wood Mackenzie. "There hasn't been enough demand to use up all the supply being pushed into the market." So far, efforts to limit production have barely made a dent. Unless the pace of production declines sharply or demand picks up significantly this summer, analysts say the nation's storage facilities could reach their limits by fall. That would cause the price of natural gas, which has been halved over the past year, to nosedive. Citigroup commodities analyst Anthony Yuen says the price of natural gas -- now \$2.08 per 1,000 cubic feet -- could briefly fall below \$1. "There would be no floor," he says. Since October, the number of drilling rigs exploring for natural gas has fallen by 30 percent to 658, according to the energy services company Baker Hughes. Some of the sharpest drop-offs have been in the Haynesville Shale in Northwestern Louisiana and East Texas and the Fayetteville Shale in Central Arkansas. But natural gas production is still growing, the result of a five-year drilling boom that has peppered the country with wells.

Shining a moral light on Easter VATICAN CITY - Pope Benedict XVI, carrying a tall, lit candle, ushered in Christianity's most joyous celebration with an Easter vigil service Saturday night, but voiced fears that mankind is groping in darkness, unable to distinguish good from evil....Benedict, who has made protection of the environment a theme of his papacy, made a reference to urban pollution in his homily. "Today we can illuminate our cities so brightly that the stars in the sky are no longer visible," he said. "Is this not an image of the problems caused by our version of enlightenment?"

Books, films chronicle Marcellus Shale gas rush ALBANY, N.Y. -- Dairy farmers-turned-shale millionaires. Rural widows gypped by smooth-talking landmen. Revitalized communities. Exploding wells. Dreams realized and hopes dashed. At the local level, the story of America's unquenchable thirst for fossil fuels is a very human one. Upstate New York journalist Tom Wilber's new book reads like a character-driven novel as it tells the stories of the winners and losers, industry leaders and regulators on the new frontier of shale gas. As a reporter for the Binghamton Press and Sun-Bulletin, Wilber began chronicling the story of the 50,000-square-mile Marcellus Shale long before geologists ignited the gas rush with their 2008 announcement that it could be the biggest natural gas field in the United States. His new book, "Under the Surface," to be released May 8 by Cornell University Press, builds on his work as a reporter and later as a full-time author. Books and documentaries have a long history of informing debate on environmental issues, from Rachel Carson's 1962 book "Silent Spring," which generated a storm of controversy over chemical pesticides, to "An Inconvenient Truth," Al Gore's Academy Award-winning film on climate change. That tradition continues with the growing collection of media telling the story of America's shale gas boom. More works will debut this summer, including dueling documentaries. The anti-industry "Gasland 2," an HBO-funded sequel to Josh Fox's Emmy award-winning 2010 documentary "Gasland," will be screened across the country to coincide with the election season. The most famous scene in "Gasland," where a man lights water from his faucet on fire, is an icon of the anti-fracking movement.

WALL STREET JOURNAL

Study questions natural gas's environmental benefits WASHINGTON—As U.S. lawmakers promote natural gas as a way to reduce air pollution, a scientific study published this week questions the benefits of the fuel when used to power vehicles and generate electricity. The study authors said methane leaks from the production and transportation of natural gas should be studied in greater detail before the U.S. adopts any major policy shifts. The study, co-written by scientists at several universities and the environmental group Environmental Defense Fund, wades into an increasingly murky area of energy research. In it, scientists said the production of natural gas results in methane leaking into the ...

NASDAQ

New EPA Results: Fracking Has Not Contaminated Water In Pennsylvania The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is providing further evidence that hydraulic fracturing did not contaminate groundwater in a small Pennsylvania town where some residents believe natural gas drilling fouled their domestic wells. Twenty more homes in Dimock were tested by EPA investigators, and the results upheld findings released earlier in March according to which the water posed no immediate health risk. Dimock has been on the front lines in a battle against hydraulic fracturing, a drilling technique during which thousands of gallons of water, sand and chemicals are blasted underground to fracture rock and extract natural gas trapped underground. The EPA's findings are a blow to hydraulic fracturing opponents, who say the technique is hazardous to the environment and people. The technique has been at the heart of much controversy, in states stretching from the East Coast to Wyoming. In Ohio, there are suspicions that small earthquakes are linked to the hydraulic fracturing of wells and the subsequent disposal of drilling water. In Wyoming, the EPA is investigating claims that natural gas drilling tainted water near the town of Pavillion. Federal regulators previously released a heavily disputed draft report that linked drilling to ground water pollution there. This month, the EPA said it will wait until April 17 before unveiling air emission reductions for hydraulic fracturing. Dimock stands over the Marcellus Shale, a rock formation said to hold 84 trillion cubic feet of undiscovered natural gas, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. New York state, which sits on a part of that formation, is contemplating whether or not to allow high-volume hydraulic fracturing to take place, and could start issuing drilling permits by year's end.

USA TODAY

Judge rules for DuPont on Kevlar antitrust claims DOVER, Del. (WTW) — A federal judge in Virginia has ruled in favor of the DuPont Co. in a dispute with a South Korean company that lost a trade secrets lawsuit last year. The judge late Thursday granted summary judgment to DuPont on antitrust claims by Kolon Industries alleging that DuPont tried to monopolize the market for high-strength synthetic fibers used in products such as Kevlar body armor. Earlier this year, the judge refused to overturn a jury's decision in the underlying trade secret lawsuit.